

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/432,917

Examiner

Michael N. Opsasnick

Applicant(s)

MCDOWELL, SAMUEL KEITH

Art Unit

2655

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS**. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 1/26/2005.

2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-25,27,29-39 and 43.

3. The drawings filed on 02 November 1999 are accepted by the Examiner.

4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of the:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

(b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.

7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

The status indicator of claim 28 has been changed as follows:

from "withdrawn" to -- cancelled--.

Where a reply to a final action has otherwise placed the application in condition for allowance, the failure to cancel claims drawn to the nonelected invention or to take appropriate action will be construed as authorization to cancel these claims by examiner's amendment and pass the application to issue after the expiration of the period for reply. See MPEP § 821.01,821.02.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-25,27,29-39,43 are allowable over the prior art of record.

As per the independent claims, the claim language relating to the input of positional coordinates of audio elements based on users input, in addition to other audio elements, is not explicitly taught by the prior art of record. Everett (5864816) discloses a multi-channel interactive audio system (col. 4, ln. 39-40), including a buffer22 of figure 2, containing frames of data with subband rows with scale factors – col. 4 lines 36-54), unpacking and decompressing audio components' subband data and scale factors for each channel (col. 6, ln. 28-37); calculating scale factors to be applied on decompression (col. 2 lines 13-15), mixing audio component's subband data in the subband domain for each channel (col. 4, ln. 45-54); and ISO/IEC 11172-3 teaches that an audio compression process wherein the mixed subband data and their scale factors for each channel (Coding of samples and bit-allocation sections on page 79). However, none of the prior art of record explicitly teaches the claim language of the independent claims pertaining to the input of positional coordinates of audio elements based on users input, in addition to other audio elements. Furthermore, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of the prior art of record to obtain the recited claim limitations of the independent claims noted above.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Opsasnick, telephone number (703)305-4089, who is available Tuesday-Thursday, 9am-4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ms. Doris To, can be reached at (703)305-4827. The facsimile phone number for this group is (703)872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group 2600 receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4750, the 2600 Customer Service telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

mno
3/22/05


David L. Ometz
Primary Examiner